CEMBER 1ST WITH ITS DAMAGE AS YOU SAW. THIS PAST WEEKEND WE HAVE HAD RAIN WHICH STARTED FRIDAY NIGHT AND BY YESTERDAY MORNING I HAD MEASURED 3.2 INCHES. SINCE THEN A CONSTANT DRIZZLE FOR THE LAST 24 HOURS HAS FALLEN ADDING TO THAT TOTAL. IT CONTINUES AND ACCORDING TO WEATHER FORECASTS WILL DO SO FOR A DAY OR TWO MORE. WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH RAIN THIS WINTER, SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN MISSING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. WE HAD TWO NICE RAINS IN NOVEMBER AND OTHER LIGHT ONES IN ADDITION.

I APPRECIATED YOUR VISIT FOR I LEARNED SO MUCH. I HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN HIBISCUS FOR SOME TIME AND IN 1947 I STARTED COLLECTING AND PROPOGATING. I HAVE FOUND WE HAVE A LOVELY CLIMATE FOR HIBISCUS CULTURE BUT NOT TOO MANY PERSONS REALLY INTERESTED TO GROW THE FINER OR NEWER HYBRIDS. HOWEVER, I AM SURE THEY HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE DIFFICULTIES I HAVE OF NOT BEING ABLE TO PURCHASE THE NEWER VARIETIES OR FOR THAT MATTER ANY GRAFTED HIBISCUS. OF THE LOCAL NURSERIES ONLY MR. LINK HAS AN OUTSTANDING GROUP AND HIS ARE MAINLY STOCK PLANTS FROM WHICH HE IS AIR-LAYERING FOR RE-SALE.

BESIDES HAVING DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING NEW VARIETIES I HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE USUAL SOIL AND ENVIRONMENT FACTORS SO I HAVE TURNED TO THE ART OF GRAFTING FOR IMPROVEMENT AND I HOPE TO DO A LOT OF IT THIS YEAR BEGINNING IN THE SPRING. CHLOROSIS HAS BEEN A PROBLEM BUT WITH IRON SULFATE AND MANGANESE SULFATE AND OTHER TRACE MINERALS AS WELL AS GRAFTING I BELIEVE I AM ON THE WAY TO SUCCESS.

COLONEL, SOMETHING IS STIRRING IN MY MIND ABOUT YOUR MILITARY CAREER WHICH MAY AGAIN PROVE THIS "IS A SMALL WORLD". OF COURSE YOU WERE INTRODUCED TO ME AS COLONEL CALAIS BUT AT THE TIME I HAD HIBISCUS ON MY

MIND AND THE THRILL OF BEING INTRODUCED TO YOU AND MRS. CALAIS. BUT BACK TO THE MILITARY AND I REMEMBER OF A COLONEL C. H. CALAIS AS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL AT FORT KNOX. COULD THIS BE YOU? I WENT THROUGH OCS AT FORT KNOX IN THE WINTER OF 1942-43 AND GRADUATED WITH THE 23RD CLASS ON 2/27/43. IT JUST SEEMS YOUR FACE WAS FAMILIAR TO ME BUT OF COURSE MEMORIES ARE SOMETIMES NOT TOO CLEAR & I COULD BE WRONG.

MRS. CALAIS, I DO THANK YOU FOR THE COPY OF THE SEED POD WHICH I HAVE ENJOYED A LOT. I AM MISSING THE PREVIOUS ISSUE TOO BUT HAVE THE MAY-JUNE-JULY ISSUE. THEY ARE SO INFORMATIVE AND HELPFUL. PLEASE CHECK AND SEE ABOUT MY DUES. I DO BELIEVE I AM BEHIND. I WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE A COPY OF THE REPRINT BY MR. BASS "YOUR HIBISCUS AND HOW TO GROW THEM".

I HAVE PROPOGATED THE LAST FIVE OR SIX YEARS AT LEAST 100 OWN-ROOT PLANTS EACH YEAR AND 300 IN 1955. OF THESE I HAVE USED SOME AND FARMED SOME TO MY MOTHER'S GARDEN ALSO TO TWO SISTERS, ONE IN HARLINGEN AND ONE IN CORPUS CHRISTI. THE LARGER AMOUNT I HAVE GIVEN AWAY TO FRIENDS AND I DO BELIEVE I HAVE INCREASED INTEREST IN THIS RESPECT. ALL OF MY NEIGHBORS HAVE PLANTS I HAVE ROOTED. ONE FRIEND I HAVE GIVEN OVER 50 VARIETIES. IF I KNOW A PERSON LOVES PLANTS AND WILL CARE FOR THEM, I LOVE TO PASS SOME OF MINE TO THEM. IT REALLY GIVES ME A THRILL TO ROOT THEM, ESPECIALLY SO WITH A NEW VARIETY AND WHEN I HAVE ONLY ONE OR TWO CUTTINGS. THE HALLOWEEN WAS A CHALLANGE TO ME FOR I HAVE HEARD IT WILL NOT ROOT YET I AM SO PROUD OF THE ONE NICE PLANT I HAVE.

I PLAN TO GRAFT ALL THE BETTER VARIETIES I HAVE ON NEW STOCK AND REPLACE THE LARGE OWN-ROOT PLANTS I HAVE IN THE BEDS. I WILL ALSO TRY INARCHING AS YOU DESCRIBED TO ME.